



News From

Maggie Brooks

Monroe County Executive

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COUNTY CONDUCTS TRAINING EXERCISE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

Monroe County Executive **Maggie Brooks** held a news conference this morning to officially begin a County exercise to test its POD (Point of Dispensing) clinics, which would have to be set up to provide medication or immunizations to local residents in the event of a large-scale public health emergency. The County conducted the exercise at the Dome Arena in Henrietta.

Brooks was joined by key members of her health and emergency response team, including Dr. Andrew Doniger, Director of the Monroe County Department of Public Health; Muffy Meisenzahl, Administrator of the Monroe County Office of Emergency Preparedness; and Steve Bowman, Director of the Monroe County Department of Public Safety.

"Today's exercise gives the County and local volunteers the opportunity to train for a public health emergency and to ensure we are able to provide the necessary medication or immunizations to affected residents should a health emergency ever occur in our community," said Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks. *"Just as we train for any other emergency situation, we are training for this. The health, safety and security of the residents of Monroe County is our top priority."*

In the event of a large-scale public health emergency, such as an outbreak of smallpox, POD clinics would be opened throughout Monroe County to dispense medications or administer immunizations to a large number of people in a short timeframe.

"A large-scale public health emergency would very likely necessitate help from community members, given the large number of people needed to staff and run the POD clinics. Monroe County employees from several departments, the Monroe County Medical Reserve Corps, community partners and other volunteers would play a vital role in our emergency response efforts," Brooks added.

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POD Exercise – Page 2

The County continues to work with local partners to develop the Monroe County Medical Reserve Corps (MCMRC). This will be a database of volunteers, both medical and non-medical, who have agreed to be trained and ready to help in an emergency.

Approximately 100 people participated in today's exercise which used a vaccination scenario. Future exercises are anticipated to continue the training and development process and will simulate medication dispensing.

The Monroe County Health Department is working to identify locations within the community that could serve as POD sites and is making the necessary arrangements to use them in an emergency. In the event of a health emergency, the public would be notified of POD clinic locations through the media.

“Monroe County has been recognized for having highly skilled and highly trained first responders. Should a public health emergency ever occur, Monroe County will respond quickly to protect the public,” Brooks concluded.

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